

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 41

2 48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO STUDY
12 THE FEASIBILITY, PLAN AND DESIGN OF, AND COOPERATE WITH
13 BERNALILLO COUNTY IN DEVELOPING, A PERMANENT CENTRAL RETAIL-
14 WHOLESALE FARMERS MARKET.

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16 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico imports several billion
17 dollars worth of food annually; and

18 WHEREAS, the state's agriculture sector does not have the
19 infrastructure to mobilize production for significant import
20 substitution; and

21 WHEREAS, current opportunities exist for direct marketing
22 activities through local growers and farmers markets, but
23 another opportunity is the development of infrastructure to
24 stimulate and support direct-to-urban market activities; and

25 WHEREAS, development of a sustainable agricultural system

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1 may be seen as a picture puzzle, with many pieces to be put
2 into place before it is complete, including a central wholesale
3 market that might function as a focal point for the region's
4 agricultural market; and

5 WHEREAS, a central retail-wholesale market facility could
6 function as a permanent farmers market; and

7 WHEREAS, such a central market could also serve as a small
8 farm innovation center, providing preferential education for
9 small farmers to stimulate investment in noncommodity, high-
10 value specialty products and infrastructure to enable the year-
11 round production that is essential to the viability of the
12 central market concept; and

13 WHEREAS, a central market should also have restaurants, a
14 learning center, a community kitchen, a shop, a community
15 gardening information area, a nutrition center and an
16 environmental area to help the community establish the
17 connection between its activities and global warming, urban
18 heat islands, urban greening and energy conservation, analogous
19 to that of Boston's fresh fish market; and

20 WHEREAS, the market's clientele would include buyers for
21 restaurants and public and private institutions; and

22 WHEREAS, the market would function as part of the region's
23 agricultural and food system and as a "destination attraction"
24 incorporating a number of complementary elements, including
25 wholesale commodities farm products, fresh produce, flowers,

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1 Christmas trees and other seasonal items, fresh meat, fresh
2 poultry, dairy products, locally produced wines, other value-
3 added agricultural products, specialty bakeries, specialty
4 restaurants, educational facilities and a meeting and
5 conference space;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico department of
8 agriculture work with Bernalillo county to study the
9 feasibility of, and to plan and design, a permanent central
10 retail-wholesale farmers market to be located in Bernalillo
11 county to include the aforementioned components; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico department of
13 agriculture and Bernalillo county report their findings and
14 recommendations to the appropriate committee of the legislature
15 by December 1, 2008; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the director of the New Mexico department of
18 agriculture and to the board of county commissioners of
19 Bernalillo county.